

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF MINIATURE ART TAS INC.

President's Report 2015

The Colour Circle at Mt. Nelson was the venue for the A.G.M. on 19th July 2014. Unfortunately, the extreme cold of the afternoon kept the numbers attending down to eleven, but the coffee and cake to follow at The Signal Station was reward indeed for those braving the chill. A painting day was held at the Colour Circle on the Sunday.

Soon after the A.G.M., we began organizing the exhibition on Mt. Nelson at the Signal Station at the invitation of the restaurant proprietor, Mr. Scott Allan. Despite the difficulties experienced while hanging the paintings, the exhibition was opened on Sunday, 7th September 2014, by Mr. Terry Gough OAM who delivered a very constructive critique of the work submitted by each artist to the large, receptive gathering of artists and friends. Unfortunately, only four pieces sold, but the inability of patrons to inspect the work closely was detrimental - a venue, we decided, best suited to large works. When offers are extended for exhibitions, it is wise to accept the challenges, despite some misgivings. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't, but always worth the effort! Sincere thanks to the band of helpers, Claire, Sandra and Ruth, who worked with the difficulties to ensure this exhibition happened.

Thank you also to Carlene Vickers, the co-ordinator of the calendar production, sales and delivery - a time consuming task. Appreciation also to those who contributed images and purchased the 150 calendars sold and widely distributed in the form of gifts to family and friends. They are a wonderful advertisement of the skills of Society members. I must stress that the importance of support for the calendar each year cannot be underestimated.

The annual Burnie Shines Celebration in October 2014 proved to be another welcome opportunity to put the Society before the public. Amongst the many floral arrangements in St. George's Anglican Church for the Floral and Miniature Art Display, we placed twelve miniature paintings provided by four Society members who attend local churches. A great deal of interest was engendered over three days as we demonstrated our craft and spoke about the Society with the many visitors - just another opportunity not to be missed, to "talk up" the Society.

Members appreciated a short respite until 8th & 9th November, 2014, when 22 keen members met once again to participate in the Society's major workshop

For 2014 at Bicheno, tutored by the very talented Janet Matthews, one of our members from Victoria. It was thoroughly enjoyable developing our coloured pencil techniques under Janet's very able guidance. Thank you to John Humble for providing a TV screen to enable Janet to attach her camera, thus ensuring clear viewing of her demonstrations by all participants regardless of their position in the room - a wonderful system. As always, a pleasant evening dining together was enjoyed by all on Saturday, and the East Coast weather was kind once again. We are most grateful to Janet, and look forward to her next workshop in 2016.

Once the Festive Season passed, members were encouraged to begin painting again, with a very well-attended painting day at Gill and Greg's Place at Evandale in February 2015. Many delightful tiny paintings were created as we practiced "Appreciating the Small" in readiness for the new category in the up-coming Annual Awards Exhibition. What a lovely day was had by all from across the State. The Botanical Art Group from Launceston joined us, as did our Patron, Lady Ferrall, who enjoyed spending time with each member, interested not only in their creation, but in themselves. Sallie commented that we had inspired her to paint again. We all enjoyed sharing a cake in a surprise celebration of John Humble's special birthday.

The Annual Awards Exhibition, opened on 3rd May 2015 at the Mill Providore Gallery by the judge Mr. Terry Gough OAM, proved very successful again with 143 paintings hung, nine of which sold, and 23 medals awarded, plus the People's Choice medal later won by Ruth Bosveld for "Amber's Delight". It was very pleasing to welcome over 50 artists and friends to the Opening, including our Patron, Lady Ferrall, and our Founder, Mrs. Bernadette Connor OAM. It was interesting for all in attendance to hear the judge's encouraging critique of the entries from across Australia, making his task quite challenging as the standard was exceptional. Unfortunately, our time at The Mill Gallery has come to an end, due to renovations. The Committee members who work so hard to ensure this exhibition happens each year must be commended for its continued success.

Our Webmaster, John Humble, has been working hard modifying the website, which now features interesting Society information. The new Members' Page is up and running, offering members a wonderful opportunity to showcase their work and relative information. John awaits more participants. Thank you to John for the extensive time and effort he has allocated to this very worthwhile innovation.

Thank you also to Chris Cooke for the professionally produced Profile Book

which created a great deal of interest at the Annual Awards Exhibition. A concise history of each member's art journey and recent photo is allocated to each individual page, and when completed, the book will be a wonderful up-to-date record of our members, their talents and achievements for interested patrons to view at exhibitions and for the Society files. More members are requested to submit their information to Chris as soon as possible, as a completed book would be very acceptable to display at the Annual Awards Exhibition on 29th January 2016 at The Burnie Regional Art Gallery.

Our present membership stands at 68 - a number of new members have joined us while others have left due to illness, age, inability to paint, etc., and we have several preparing to join.

Congratulations to the many members who have been rewarded by winning prestigious awards within Tasmania, interstate and overseas during the past year, whether with miniature or larger works. Comments indicate that the standard of work increases each year, which is very pleasing indeed. Those who have earned awards or have sold paintings can be justifiably proud of their achievements, providing encouragement to improve even more.

Lastly, but certainly not least, my sincere thanks, and those of all members of this Society, must be extended to the hard-working committed members of the ASMA Tas Committee who give countless hours of their time and effort to ensure the on-going success of this Society for the benefit of every member.

I know the Committee will join me in a vote of special appreciation to our Treasurer and Editor of our superb newsletter, Helen Eastley, for her tasks so very well done.

My personal thanks and appreciation to them all for their so-valued support.

We, in turn, thank all members for their participation and support of the events planned for the past year, and look forward to their success and enjoyments of those events organized for the coming year.

Thank you.

Patricia Young
President